

REPORT OF ST. MARY'S PROVINCE (REGINA) TO THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF MAY 1947.

The Personnel.

The Province was founded in 1926, and then counted 38 Fathers, 13 scholastics, 4 lay-Brothers, 2 scholastic novices, 1 lay-Brother novice and 40 Juniors. In 1947, the Province counts 102 Fathers, 26 scholastics, 8 lay Brothers, 2 scholastic novices, 1 lay Brother novice, and 67 Juniors.

Since the Chapter of 1938, 7 Fathers have died; 4 Fathers have left the Congregation; 2 Fathers went to the Belleville Province; 1 Father to the Grouard Vicariate; 37 priests have graduated from our scholasticate of whom 3 belong to the East Canada Province, 1 to the Hudson's Bay Vicariate, and 5 to the Grouard Vicariate. 2 Fathers were with the Armed Forces. 1 Father was Polish Camp Chaplain in East Africa. 5 Fathers are well over 70 years of age. 16 Fathers are very close to 70 years of age. 2 Fathers are convalescent and unable to work. 1 Father is quite ill and little improvement is expected. The health of several Fathers leaves much to be desired. All but three Fathers are still active in the Ministry.

The Province has 63 Churches with resident priests, 69 mission Churches and 14 missions. They administer to 57,285 souls, i.e. about 10,457 families, in 9 dioceses. Most of our work is in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

The Province was founded chiefly to serve the German, Polish and Ukrainian population. Due to the war, the mother tongue is inclined to disappear. Sermons are still preached in the various mother tongues, but also in English, chiefly for the younger generation. Indications are that a new policy of

immigration will bring a new influx of population from Europe. Hence it is still necessary, for a long time to come, for the Fathers to know the various languages. Especially Saskatchewan and Manitoba are very cosmopolitan. In Saskatchewan, the largest group in two Dioceses are people of German speaking origin; these people originate chiefly from Russia or from what used to be Austria-Hungary. They live in closely knitted colonies, v.g. St. Joseph's Colony in the Saskatoon Diocese; then there is the Prelate Colony in Gravelbourg Diocese; St. Boniface Colony in the Prince Albert Diocese; larger centers in the Regina Archdiocese. Our Polish speaking people are chiefly in Manitoba, but in Saskatchewan we have the Rama District in the Regina Archdiocese. We have only one Father for the Ruthenians; he is Father Ph. Rouh who is in charge of some 450 families in and around Cook's Creek, Manitoba.

1. THE COLONIES.

A. *St. Joseph's Colony*: in 1905 Bishop Pascal, O.M.I., founded the Colony. It is located 100 miles due west of Saskatoon. It comprises 77 « townships ». The population is almost exclusively of German origin. There are now 16 resident priests, i.e. 16 parishes with resident priest, and 9 missions with Churches. The Colony is given to us in perpetuity. During the depression years, people were poor and priests with them faced privations and great difficulty. Now conditions have improved; debts have been paid off, and improvements have been made: 6 new Churches have been built: 3 new rectories were built, and one purchased. There is a Catholic Hospital in Macklin operated by the Sisters of St. Elizabeth. There are 5 Convents. One is a large Convent and Boarding School operated by the Notre Dame Nuns. The other Convents are of the Ursuline Sisters of

the Prelate Community. The Sisters of Notre Dame are in Leipzig and Händel. The Ursuline Sisters are in Revenue, Tramping Lake, and Denzil. The Ursuline Sisters also teach in some country schools. From our Oblate Religious standpoint, the Colony is divided into two Religious Districts, namely the *Kerrobot District* and the *Tramping Lake District*. (Total: 1850 families; 1740 Germ. origin).

B. *Prelate Colony*: founded in 1914. Its people are of German speaking origin. There are 8 Churches with resident priests, 4 mission Churches, and 4 missions without Churches. There is, in Prelate, the Mother House of the Ursuline Sisters, and 4 Convents in the District. The Colony comprises 70 townships. The area has been stricken with depression and repeated bad crops, but the people have rallied from great poverty within the last 6 years. There are some 880 families and all but 60 families are of German origin. During the last 5 years, 3 new Churches have been built, the Prelate Church was enlarged, the Parish of St. John's was founded and a Church moved and enlarged to serve the needs of the Congregation. A new rectory was built at Blumenfeld. There are no debts on any parish. There have been 6 priests for the Congregation, and 24 Sisters. About 12 young men are studying for the priesthood. (Total: 880 families; 820 Germ. origin).

C. *St. Boniface Colony*: comprising St. Walburg, Paradise Hill, Barthel, Goodsoil and Pierceland — and missions. There were only two priests until 1932. Now there are 6 priests working in the Colony. There are now 4 Churches with resident priests, 4 Churches without resident priests, and 5 missions without Churches. There are three convents of the Ursuline Sisters and the Sisters teach in 4 schools. (Total: 491 families; 350 Germ. origin).

All of the three Colonies lie in a north-southerly direction along the Western Boarder of Saskatchewan. German speaking people served by us may be found all along this boarder. Because of the large families, they feel the need to expand and extend; hence they are found to extend chiefly beyond the boarders of these colonies, and yet quite a good deal along the Western Boarder of Saskatchewan. As has been noted, this population served by us comprises a good percentage of the populations in the three dioceses of Gravelbourg, especially of Saskatoon, and of Prince Albert.

2. THE HOUSE OF ST. MARY'S AND DISTRICT.

This House, which is also the Provincial House, counts 6 Fathers and 1 lay Brother; attached to the House are the residences of Holdfast, Allan and Dilke, with four Fathers.

St. Mary's Parish counts 690 families, Holdfast 125 families, Dilke 54 families, and Allan 150 families.

Attached to St. Mary's are the missions of Pense with 8 families, and the mission of Craven with 6 families. Attached to Dilke is the mission of Liberty with 25 families. Attached to Allan is the mission of Selz with 60 families. All of these missions have Churches.

In St. Mary's there is one Convent and a separate school; in Holdfast a Convent with 6 Sisters who teach in the Holdfast school; in Allan a Convent of the Vibank Ursuline Sisters who teach in the Allan School.

There is still a debt on the Holdfast Church and on the Dilke Church; other Churches are free of debt.

The families in these parishes and missions are mostly of German descent.

There have been seven priests from St. Mary's

Parish who are Oblates, two others who are Redemptorists, three priests from Holdfast.

New Rectory was built in Regina, Church remodelled, and a new Church in Dilke.

The parish of St. Mary's is given to us in perpetuity.

Total: 1118 families; 1068 Germ. origin.

3. GRAYSON DISTRICT.

To the District belong the residences of Grayson, Melville, Killaly, Southey and Lemberg. 5 Churches with resident priests. 1 Catholic Hospital with a Chaplain, a convent in Melville with Sisters teaching in the Separate School and a convent in Lemberg with Sisters teaching in Public School, a convent in Grayson with Sisters teaching in local School.

The parishes of Melville and of Grayson have been given to us in perpetuity.

Grayson has 220 families (217 German speaking, 3 Ukrainians); Melville has 150 families (57 Polish, 23 German, 17 French, 10 Hungarian, 3 Slovaks, 16 mixed).

Killaly has 102 families (100 German, 1 Polish, 1 Ukrainian).

Lemberg has 67 families (34 Polish and Ukrainian, 33 German).

Southey has 80 families (German speaking).

All parishes are free of debt.

A new rectory was built at Grayson, new Church at Melville, new Church at Killaly — a good number of improvements in every parish.

Vocations from Grayson: 1 secular priest, 6 Sisters, 1 lay Brother; from Melville: 2 Oblates, 1 Jesuit, 1 secular, 12 Sisters; from Killaly: 1 lay Brother, 2 Sisters. 6 Boys are studying for the priesthood.

Total: 616 families (450 German origin, 92 Polish origin).

4. ST. JOSEPH'S DISTRICT.

The parish was founded in 1904. The number of parishioners has decreased to 235 families, all German speaking.

To the District, belongs the Novitiate, St. Charles Parish, Little Britain and St. Joseph's. 3 Churches with resident priests, namely St. Joseph's, St. Charles, and Little Britain; 1 mission Church attached to Little Britain, namely Petersfield.

St. Joseph's has 235 families (German speaking).

St. Charles has 163 families (37 French-Canadian, a few Irish, a few German and quite a number of Metis).

Little Britain has 16 families (German speaking).

Petersfield has 34 families (12 Slovaks, 5 Irish, 5 German, 4 French, 4 Indian, 3 Italian, 1 Czech).

There is a Convent in St. Joseph's Parish and a convent in St. Charles.

The Church at Little Britain is new, as is also the rectory.

Total: 458 families (266 German origin).

5. HOLY GHOST HOUSE AND DISTRICT.

Attached to the House are the residences of Elphinstone, Oakburn, Ashern, East Selkirk, Garson, Cook's Creek, Tolstoi, St. Boniface.

Holy Ghost: 3 priests, 500 families (Polish).

Cook's Creek: resident priest, 200 families (Polish).

Elphinstone: resident priest, 40 families (Polish and others). Missions with Church: *Rockham*: 40 Polish families; *Wisla*: 10 Polish families; *Erickson* with 20 families; *Shoal Lake* with 24 families.

Oakburn: resident priest, 45 Polish families. Missions with Church: *Rosburn* with 45 Polish families and *Angusville* with 50 Polish families.

Tolstoi: resident priest, 60 Polish families. Mis-

sions with Church: *Vita* with 20 Polish families and *Kroze* with 50 Polish families.

Ashern: resident priest with 24 mixed families. Missions with Church: *Grahamdale* 16 families; *Zbaraz* with 60 Polish families; *Mulvihill* with 4 families; *Gypsumville* with 10 families.

East Selkirk: resident priest with 65 Polish and mixed families. Mission with Church: *Narol* with 50 families.

Garson: resident priest with 65 Polish families. Missions with Church: *Tyndall* with 25 families; *Walkleyburg* with 25 Polish families.

St. Boniface Missions: St. Boniface 50 Polish families; Transcona with 50 Polish families; St. Norbert with 30 Polish families.

Total: 1603 families (1470 Polish origin).

The families of these Polish missions have settled on poorer land because that was all that was left. Generally speaking the missions are poor. There are however no debts on any of the Churches.

Holy Ghost Parish has been given in perpetuity. New Churches were built in Narol, Garson, within the last 5 years. Prior to that a number of Churches were built in the missions. Holy Ghost Rectory has been remodelled some time ago and is really the largest and best in the Province.

6. RAMA DISTRICT.

Was confided to the Oblate Fathers in 1933. There was then only one priest who served the missions. Now there are 6 resident priests. A number of Churches and rectories have been built. There has been great spiritual and material growth since the Oblates took over.

Attached to the District are the following Churches with resident priests:

Rama, with the mission of Dobrowody.

Lintlaw, with the missions of Kelvington and High Tor.

Sturgis, with missions of Stenen, Norquay Town, Norquay Country, Ormside, Ruda, Rockford. All these missions have Churches. There are two other missions without Churches.

Fosston, with missions of Rose Valley and Archerville.

Kuroki, with the missions of Wadena, Quill Lake.

Buchanan, with missions of Tiny, Kulikow.

Since the Oblates took over, 9 Churches have been built.

Most of the people are of Polish origin.

Churches are now free of debt.

Total: 602 families (385 Polish origin, 28 German origin).

7. TORONTO HOUSE.

When His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan went to Toronto, he asked the Province to take charge of a large Polish Parish in Toronto: St. Stanislaus Parish. The parish was founded in 1911. Two Oblates, Father Puchniak and Father Bednarz, arrived in June 1935. There is a Church and a rectory. In 1937, Toronto was constituted as a House.

There are now 3 priests for St. Stanislaus Parish.

There is one priest stationed at St. Mary's Parish. This parish is now also administered by the Oblates.

St. Stanislaus counts about 1000 Polish families.

St. Mary's counts 200 families.

In 1938, the Fathers obtained the services of the Felician Sisters who teach Polish, do social service work, and conduct a Day Nursery which they have built at their own cost. It is the best in the City of Toronto.

Since the Fathers arrived, all debts were paid and improvements to the extent of some \$40,000 were made and paid for.

His Eminence has offered to give us the parish in perpetuity. The contract is submitted to him, but the answer from Rome has not been received.

The parish has some \$25,000 invested in Savings Bonds, and this money is to be used to build another Church and organize another parish.

We are now completing arrangements to establish in Toronto a House of Studies to foster Polish speaking vocations. The House has already been bought.

Many of our Polish people in recent years, have moved to the Industrial areas of Eastern Canada, and hence the reason for there being so many in Toronto.

Total: 1200 Polish families.

8. KRYDOR AND MISSIONS.

The Krydor Missions and the Prince Albert Polish Missions were taken over by the Province in 1938. The Fathers who work in these missions live at Krydor and are attached to the House of Battleford.

Total: 280 families (225 Polish origin).

The missions are as follows :*Krydor* with 35 families; *Claytonville* with 35 families; *Orolow* with 17 families; *Albertown* with 20 families; *Bear Lake* with 20 families; *Alticane* with 40 families; *Redfield* with 18 families; *Merth Park* with 35 families; *Honeymoon* with 18 families; *Henriburg* with 25 families; *Fir Ridge* with 17 families.

All but 25 are Polish.

Great progress has been made spiritually and materially especially within the last 5 years. The missions however are too numerous for two Fathers, but no Fathers are at present available. The two priests reside at Krydor.

9. CARRUTHERS AND MISSIONS.

We took charge of these missions for the duration of the War because His Excellency the Bishop of Prince Albert was so short of priests. That condi-

tion has not changed as yet. One priest is in charge of all these missions and is attached to the House of Battleford. The missions are as follows: *Carruthers* with 9 families; *Baldwington* with 28 families; *Seagram* with 28 families; *Freemont* with 21 families; *Marsden* with 40 families; *Nunebar* with 7 families.

Total: 133 families (35 German origin).

The population is very mixed: Belgian 16; French 20; Irish 28; Italian 20; German 39; Polish and Ukrainians 10. These missions have not always received the attention which they should have had. The terrain is difficult for winter travel. Now however, two priests work the missions in the summer months. The children are asked to subscribe to the correspondence course in Catechism. The families are living in the midst of non-catholics and hence resultant indifference on the part of many and mixed marriages.

The priest House is at Carruthers, but the parish has decreased and the residence is too far from the other missions. Hence the priest has moved to Freemont. There are no debts.

There is however good hope for the future since more catholic families are buying land in the District. These missions are quite difficult.

10. FLAT LAKE AND MISSIONS.

These Polish missions are also taken over by the Province from the Alberta Province in 1938. One priest serves these missions in Alberta. The missions are as follows: *Flat Lake* with 48 families; *Goodridge* with 28 families; *Shamrock Valley* with 12 families; *Bonnyville* with 18 families; *Ardmore* with 30 families.

Total: 136 families (120 Polish origin).

These missions are difficult and its people are poor. There are no debts. The people are almost

exclusively Polish. The Father is directly under the Provincial Administration.

11. VANCOUVER FOUNDATIONS.

1. *St. Casimir's Parish*: His Exc. Archbishop Duke had us make a survey, and it was found that there were some 300 Polish families in Vancouver and only 19 were going to Church. He asked us to send a Father. A Rectory was bought for \$7,000 in 1944. It is not only paid for, but Father has some \$2,400 in the building fund for a new Church. About 50 families come to Sunday services regularly, and more are coming as time proceeds. The basement is much too small, even with two services on Sundays. Plans are to build a small Church next summer. The parish is given to us in perpetuity.

Total: 300 families Polish, but only 50 go to Church.

2. *Holy Family Parish*: The survey revealed that there were some 500 German speaking families in Vancouver and that very many did not go to Church. In June 1945, Father Walliser was sent there to organize the parish. He now has bought property on which to build the Church and already has some \$3,400 in cash toward the building of a new Church. Until a Church is built, Sunday services are held in St. Paul's Church in the down-town area. Services are held every Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. About 50 families are most faithful. The solution to this problem is the building of a new Church. The parish is given to us in perpetuity.

Total: 500 families but only percentage go to Church.

Both these Fathers are under the immediate direction of the Provincial. While the Fathers find the work very difficult, and while prejudice must be overcome, the Fathers are happy in their work and are meeting with good results.

12. COOK'S CREEK (Ruthenian).

With 250 families. Mission of *Cloverleaf* with 40 families — all Ukrainian. Father Ruh has been with the Ukrainians since he came to this country. He is the architect and builder of many Churches for the Ukrainian people. The Church in Cook's Creek is very large and beautiful. There would be so much to do, but Father is alone in this work. Two Fathers came to us from Europe and had adopted the Rite, but they did not continue; they returned to the Latin Rite. Father Ruh is advancing in years and there is only one vocation in sight, a scholastic who is beginning his philosophy. Father Ruh is attached to St. Joseph's District.

13. THE NOVITIATE.

Is at St. Charles; we have as an average about 5 scholastic novices per year.

14. THE SCHOLASTICATE AND JUNIORATE AT BATTLEFORD.

Due to lack of funds and the depression, we have had to continue with the two institutions under the one roof. This has been a great handicap in the education and training of our Scholastics and of our Juniors. For many years, the General Administration urged the separation of the two institutions, but we were unable to do this. Since 1939, conditions began to improve and Fathers were able to send in more surplus. We were able to pay most of our debts — all of the old College debt from Winnipeg. Not being able to finance the building of a new Juniorate, we were given permission by the local Ordinaries to conduct a Drive for the collection of funds. This Drive resulted in about \$390,000 pledged. These pledges are to be realized over a period of 24 months. Already we have some \$170,000

cash on hand from the Drive. It must be noted that out of the total amount pledged there are some \$70,000 worth of pledges which come from parishes in which our Polish speaking Fathers are working; and this fund is to be reserved for a House of Studies in Toronto to foster Polish speaking vocations, and for vocations in Western Canada. It now looks as if we are to have a House of Studies in Toronto and that we will have bought the building for \$40,000 within the next month. It does look as if we can build a suitable building in North Battleford in 1948 and thus separate the two institutions in Battleford. The City has given us the property without encumbrances, and with the guarantee of other privileges without any conditions attached to them. We have already bought some \$20,000 worth of needed materials. Plans are being drawn up. As building materials are not available in 1947, and as Drive funds will mostly come in, in 1947, we feel that it is unwise to begin building before the spring of 1948. The new site has 28 acres.

15. HOUSE OF STUDIES IN TORONTO.

Negotiations are under way to purchase a suitable property which will cost \$41,400. We hope to be able to open the House of Studies to Students this Fall. The students will attend St. Michael's College for their classes and receive special direction at the House of Studies and also instruction in the Polish language.

16. MARIAN PRESS.

Is in good financial condition; publishes the « Marienbote », a family monthly and official organ of the Missionary Association. The « Marienbote » has some 2800 subscribers, but that number will be increased during this coming year.

17. MISSIONS RETREATS AND FORTY HOURS.

During 1945, our Fathers preached 16 retreats, 13 missions, and 12 Forty Hours. This has been the average mission and retreat work over a period of a good many years. The Province badly needs a Mission Band, but nothing could be done to realize these plans because of the lack of personnel in the Province. We have the Fathers who are well qualified, but they could not be freed from their other work.

II. Religious life.

Although the Fathers, for the most part, live isolated and alone, they are grouped into religious Districts, under religious Superiors. Every month, except when roads are impassable, they meet for their monthly retreat and conferences. An excellent spirit of cooperation and of good will exists among them. They are zealous and devoted. Permissions are faithfully sought, in matters relating to Poverty and Obedience. Non-Oblate, i.e. parish expenditures are first submitted to religious Superiors in accordance with the 1944 circular of the General Administration. The required permissions are then obtained from the local Ordinaries. The Fathers attend the annual retreat faithfully.

III. Needs of the province.

The need for more vocations is urgent. The new institution at North Battleford will require a greater number of professors. A number of Fathers are well advanced in years and will soon require assistance. Another urgent need, in keeping with the primary purpose of the Congregation, is a good Mission Band. We look forward to the day when we can also send

Fathers to Foreign Missions. Lay Brothers are pitifully few in number. Our policy is to group them into communities at the Scholasticate and Novitiate.

J. BOEKENFOEHR, O.M.I.
Provincial.

RAPPORT

DE LA PROVINCE SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE

DE LOWELL (1938-1947)

1. Fondation de la Province.

La province Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Lowell (Etats-Unis d'Amérique) fut canoniquement érigée en vice-province en 1921 et devint province en 1924, ayant à ce moment-là un personnel de 26 Pères et de 5 Frères convers.

2. Etat de la province au chapitre général de 1938:

A. PERSONNEL:

Pères	58
Frères convers	12
Scolastiques	24 dont 3 Pères

B. AGES:

Dépassant 60 ans	1 Père
Approchant 60 ans	4 Pères
Ayant de 35 à 55 ans	18 Pères
Ayant moins de 35 ans	25 Pères

MISSIONS
OF
THE CONGREGATION
OF
The Missionary Oblates
OF
MARY IMMACULATE

75TH YEAR

N. 270. — March 1948.



ROME
GENERAL HOUSE O. M. I.

5, Via Vittorino da Feltre, 5

1948